

Lincoln Memorial



WASHINGTON, D. C.



Lincoln

MEMORIAL

In this temple as in the hearts of the people for whom he saved the Union, the memory of Abraham Lincoln is enshrined forever.

This memorial honors the virtues of tolerance, honesty, and constancy in the human spirit. The man whose likeness presides over this marbled hall used these virtues in the practice of statecraft. And from it flowed everlasting benefit to his nation and an enduring inspiration to his countrymen.

Had Lincoln been an ordinary president—even an ordinary hero—an ordinary monument would have sufficed and no doubt would have been quickly built. More than half a century elapsed, however, before an appropriate memorial to the man arose in the Nation's Capital. It seemed as if time stood aside until coming generations could fashion the perfect tribute to their benefactor. The memorial is neither temple, palace, nor tomb, but partakes something of all. It seems to gather within its marble walls the spirit of the man's character, his belief that all people should be free, free to think and express themselves, and free to apply their natural talents and ambitions in lawful enterprise.

Building the Memorial

The first organized effort to erect a monument to Lincoln in Washington occurred 2 years after his death. An act of Congress approved March 29, 1867, incorporated the Lincoln Monument Association. The association appealed for subscriptions and prepared plans for a monument. But there was no practical accomplishment from this effort. The years passed. Although numerous subsequent ef-

forts were made to secure a memorial, it was not until February 1911 that Congress passed the legislation that procured it. In that act, Congress provided for a "Commission to secure plans and designs for a Monument or Memorial to the memory of Abraham Lincoln."

The commission held its first meeting on March 4, 1911. Almost a year later, at its 10th meeting on February 3, 1912, it decided to locate the memorial in Potomac Park on the axis of the Capitol and the Washington Monument, facing east toward them. This site had been recommended by the Commission of Fine Arts. Upon invitation, Henry Bacon and John Russell Pope, architects of New York City, prepared designs for a structure. The commission selected Henry Bacon to prepare a final design, and Congress approved this on January 29, 1913.

Workmen broke ground at the site selected for the memorial on February 12, 1914. The cornerstone was laid a year later. As work progressed on the structure, the commission selected Daniel Chester French to sculpture the Lincoln statue and Jules Guerin to design and execute murals for the end walls and the ornamentation on the bronze ceiling beams. After more than 6 years of work at the site, the completed memorial was dedicated in a ceremony on Memorial Day, May 30, 1922. Chief Justice William Howard Taft, as chairman of the commission, presented the memorial to President Harding who accepted it for the United States.

FELLOW COUNTRYMEN AT THIS SECOND APPEARING TO TAKE THE OATH OF THE PRESIDENTIAL OFFICE THERE IS LESS OCCASION FOR AN EXTENDED ADDRESS THAN THERE WAS AT THE FIRST THEN A STATEMENT SOMEWHAT IN DETAIL OF A COURSE TO BE PURSUED SEEMED FITTING AND PROPER. NOW AT THE EXPIRATION OF FOUR YEARS DURING WHICH PUBLIC DECLARATIONS HAVE BEEN CONSTANTLY CALLED FORTH ON EVERY POINT AND PHASE OF THE GREAT CONTEST WHICH STILL ABSORBS THE ATTENTION AND ENGROSES THE ENERGIES OF THE NATION LITTLE THAT IS NEW COULD BE PRESENTED THE PROGRESS OF OUR ARMS UPON WHICH ALL ELSE CHIEFLY DEPENDS IS AS WELL KNOWN TO THE PUBLIC AS TO MYSELF AND IT IS I TRUST REASONABLY SATISFACTORY AND ENCOURAGING TO ALL WITH HIGH HOPE FOR THE FUTURE NO PREDICTION IN REGARD TO IT IS VENTURED.

ON THE OCCASION CORRESPONDING TO THIS FOUR YEARS AGO ALL THOUGHTS WERE ANXIOUSLY DIRECTED TO AN IMPENDING CIVIL WAR ALL DREADED IT ALL SOUGHT TO AVOID IT WHILE THE INAUGURAL ADDRESS WAS BEING DELIVERED FROM THIS PLACE DEVOTED ALTOGETHER TO SAVING THE UNION WITHOUT WAR INSURGENT AGENTS WERE IN THE CITY SEEKING TO DESTROY IT WITHOUT WAR SEEKING TO DIVIDE THE UNION AND DIVIDE EFFECTS BY NEGOTIATION BOTH PARTIES DEPRICATED WAR BUT ONE OF THEM WOULD MAKE WAR RATHER THAN LET THE NATION SURVIVE

AND THE OTHER WOULD ACCEPT WAR RATHER THAN LET IT PERISH AND THE WAR CAME. ONE EIGHTH OF THE WHOLE POPULATION WERE COLORED SLAVES NOT DISTRIBUTED GENERALLY OVER THE UNION BUT LOCALIZED IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF IT THESE SLAVES CONSTITUTED A PECULIAR AND POWERFUL INTEREST ALL KNEW THAT THIS INTEREST WAS SOMEHOW THE CAUSE OF THE WAR TO STRENGTHEN PERPETUATE AND EXTEND THIS INTEREST WAS THE OBJECT FOR WHICH THE INSURGENTS WOULD REND THE UNION EVEN BY WAR WHILE THE GOVERNMENT CLAIMED NO RIGHT TO DO MORE THAN TO RESTRICT THE TERRITORIAL ENLARGEMENT OF IT NEITHER PARTY EXPECTED FOR THE WAR THE MAGNITUDE OR THE DURATION WHICH IT HAS ALREADY ATTAINED NEITHER ANTICIPATED THAT THE CAUSE OF THE CONFLICT MIGHT CEASE WITH OR EVEN BEFORE THE CONFLICT ITSELF SHOULD CEASE EACH LOOKED FOR AN EASIER TRIUMPH AND A RESULT LESS FUNDAMENTAL AND ALOUDING BOTH READ THE SAME BIBLE AND PRAY TO THE SAME GOD AND EACH INVOKES HIS AID AGAINST THE OTHER IT MAY SEEM STRANGE THAT ANY MEN SHOULD DARE TO ASK A JUST GOD'S ASSISTANCE IN WRINGING THEIR BREAD FROM THE SWEAT OF OTHER MEN'S FACES BUT LET US JUDGE NOT THAT WE BE NOT JUDGED THE PRAYERS OF BOTH COULD NOT BE ANSWERED THAT OF NEITHER HAS BEEN ANSWERED FULLY THE ALMIGHTY HAS HIS OWN PURPOSES WORK UNTO THE WORLD BECAUSE OF OFFENSES FOR WHICH WE NEED BE THAT OFFENSES COME BUT WHO TO THAT MAN BY WHOM THE OFFENSE COMETH.

IF WE SHALL SUPPOSE THAT AMERICAN SLAVERY IS ONE OF THOSE OFFENSES WHICH IN THE PROVIDING OF GOD MUST NEEDS COME BUT WHICH HAVING CONTINUED THROUGH HIS APPOINTED TIME HE NOW WILLS TO REMOVE AND THAT HE GIVES TO BOTH NORTH AND SOUTH THIS TERRIBLE WAR AS THE WORK DUE TO THOSE BY WHOM THE OFFENSE CAME SHALL WE CONCERN THEREIN ANY DEPARTURE FROM THOSE DIVINE ATTRIBUTES WHICH THE BELIEVERS IN A LIVING GOD ALWAYS AScribe TO HIM FONDLY DO WE HOPE FERVENTLY DO WE PRAY THAT THIS MIGHTY SCOURGE OF WAR MAY SPEEDILY PASS AWAY YET IF GOD WILLS THAT IT CONTINUE UNTIL ALL THE WEALTH PILLED BY THE BONDSMEN TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY YEARS OF UNREQUITED TOIL SHALL BE SUNK AND UNTIL EVERY DROP OF BLOOD DRAWN WITH THE LASH SHALL BE PAID BY ANOTHER DRAWN WITH THE SWORD AS WAS SAID THREE THOUSAND YEARS AGO SO STILL IT MUST BE SAID THE JUDGMENTS OF THE LORD ARE TRUE AND RIGHTeous ALTOGETHER WITH MALICE TOWARD NONE WITH CHARITY FOR ALL WITH FIRMNESS IN THE RIGHT AS GOD GIVES US TO SEE THE RIGHT LET US STRIVE ON TO FINISH THE WORK WE ARE IN TO BIND UP THE NATION'S WOUNDS TO CARE FOR HIM WHO SHALL HAVE Borne THE BATTLE AND FOR HIS WIDOW AND HIS ORPHANS TO DO ALL WHICH MAY ACHIEVE AND CHERISH A JUST AND LASTING PEACE AMONG OURSELVES AND WITH ALL NATIONS.

Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address—North Wall of the Memorial.

Architecture of the Memorial

The memorial is of white Colorado-Yule marble. Its architectural lines are classical. The plan is similar to that of the Parthenon, the temple to the Goddess Athena on the Acropolis in Athens. The outer columns are Doric; the columns inside the great hall are Ionic. Together they represent Greek art at its perfection. The memorial building would not be out of place if set down among the great antiquities of Greece and Rome. Its

beauty and purity of design equal the best of the ancient world.

Within the broad framework of classical design, the structure has a motif that symbolizes the Union of the States. Thirty-six columns, representing the 36 States in the Union at the time of Lincoln's death, surround the walls of the Memorial Building. A frieze above the colonnade names these States. On the attic walls above the frieze are the names of the 48 States comprising the Union at the

time the memorial was built. Ernest C. Baird of Washington carved the frieze and the decorations of the attic wall.

Within the memorial chamber are three commemorative features, a colossal seated statue of Lincoln and two huge inscribed stone tablets. The marble statue of Lincoln occupies the place of honor. It is centrally located near the back of the chamber and faces the Washington Monument and the Capitol. A row of columns separates this

central area from either end of the huge chamber. On the north wall inscribed in stone is Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address; on the south wall, similarly inscribed, is the Gettysburg Address.

The decorations of the Gettysburg and Second Inaugural Addresses were done under the direction of Daniel Chester French by Miss Evelyn Beatrice Longman, his assistant.

There are some structural features of the memorial not common in modern buildings.

The columns are not vertical but are tilted slightly inward. The four corner columns have the greatest incline. The outer facade of the building above the columns also is tilted inward, but less so than the columns. The walls of the building similarly incline inward, but less than either the colonnade and facade. This structural characteristic eliminates the optical illusion of a building bulging at the top.

Facts and Figures about the Building

Retaining Wall of Terrace Approach:

Height, 14 feet.

Length, 257 feet, east and west sides; width, 187 feet, 4 inches, north and south sides.

Foundation:

44 to 65 feet to bedrock below original grade.

Height:

80 feet above top of foundation.

99 feet above grade at foot of terrace walls.

Colonnade:

Length, 189 feet.

Width, 118 feet, 8 inches.

Number of columns, 36.

Height of columns to cap, 44 feet.

Diameter of column at base, 7 feet, 4 inches.

Number of stone drums in column, 11.

Ionic Columns Inside Memorial:

Height, 50 feet.

Diameter at base, 5 feet, 6 inches.

Central Chamber with Seated Lincoln:

Width, 58 feet.

Depth, 74 feet.

Two End Chambers:

Width, 63 feet.

Depth, 36 feet, 8 inches.

Cost of Memorial Building, \$2,957,000.

Cost of Lincoln Statue, \$88,400.

The interior walls are Indiana limestone. The ceiling, 60 feet above the floor, includes bronze girders ornamented with laurel and oak leaves. The panels between the girders are Alabama marble saturated with paraffin to produce translucency. The floor and the wall base are pink Tennessee marble.

The 2 tripods, 1 on either side of the steps to the entrance of the memorial, are 9 feet high, each cut from a single block of pink Tennessee marble. The Piccirilli brothers of New York carved the tripods.



Washington Monument and Capitol from south colonnade of Lincoln Memorial.



The Memorial through the flowering cherry trees bordering the Tidal Basin.

The Statue of Lincoln

Daniel Chester French designed and made the model for the statue of the seated Lincoln. It represents Lincoln as the War President. The statue from head to foot is 19 feet high. The scale is such that if Lincoln were standing he would be 28 feet tall. The extreme width of the statue, including the drapery over the chair, is the same as its height—19 feet. There are 28 blocks of Georgia white marble in the sculptured statue. The Piccirilli brothers carved the stone in their New York studio, spending more than 4 years on the huge statue. Mr. French personally assisted in this work. Experiments with models showed that the statue, originally planned to

be 10 feet tall, would be dwarfed and out of scale in the large hall where it would stand. This led to a change in the contract with Mr. French to double the size of the statue, so that it would be 19 or 20 feet tall.

The statue rests on an oblong pedestal of Tennessee marble 10 feet, 3 inches high, 18 feet, 1 inch wide, and 19 feet, 2 inches deep at the base. This in turn rests on a platform of Tennessee marble.

The Murals

The two murals on the north and south walls represent allegorically principles of conduct and thought evident in the life of Abraham Lincoln. These murals, painted by Jules Guerin, are each 60 feet long and 12 feet high. Each piece of canvas weighed about 600 pounds; approximately 150 pounds of paint were used on each. The mural above the Gettysburg Address on the south wall features an Angel of Truth freeing a slave. On the left and right, groups represent Justice and Immortality. The mural above the Second Inaugural Address on the north wall features the unity of the North and South. On the left and right, groups represent Fraternity and Charity.

Administration

The memorial is open daily from 9 a. m. to 9 p. m., closing only on Christmas Day. It is administered by the National Capital Parks of the National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior. The Superintendent, National Capital Parks, Interior Building, Washington 25, D. C., is in immediate charge.

The National Park System, of which this area is a unit, is dedicated to conserving the scenic, scientific, and historic heritage of the United States for the benefit and inspiration of its people.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fred A. Seaton, *Secretary*

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, Conrad L. Wirth, *Director*



FOUR SCORE AND SEVEN YEARS AGO OUR FATHERS BROUGHT FORTH ON THIS CONTINENT A NEW NATION CONCEIVED IN LIBERTY AND DEDICATED TO THE PROPOSITION THAT ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL

NOW WE ARE ENGAGED IN A GREAT CIVIL WAR TESTING WHETHER THAT NATION OR ANY NATION SO CONCEIVED AND SO DEDICATED CAN LONG ENDURE WE ARE MET ON A GREAT BATTLEFIELD OF THAT WAR WE HAVE COME TO DEDICATE A PORTION OF THAT FIELD AS A FINAL RESTING PLACE FOR THOSE WHO HERE GAVE THEIR LIVES THAT THAT NATION MIGHT LIVE IT IS ALTOGETHER FITTING AND PROPER THAT WE SHOULD DO THIS - BUT IN A LARGER SENSE WE CAN NOT DEDICATE - WE CAN NOT CONSECRATE - WE CAN NOT HALLOW - THIS GROUND - THE BRAVE MEN LIVING AND DEAD WHO STRUGGLED HERE HAVE CONSECRATED IT FAR ABOVE OUR POOR POWER TO ADD OR DETRACT - THE WORLD WILL LITTLE NOTE NOR LONG REMEMBER WHAT WE SAY HERE BUT IT CAN NEVER FORGET WHAT THEY DID HERE - IT IS FOR US THE LIVING RATHER TO BE DEDICATED HERE TO THE UNFINISHED WORK WHICH THEY WHO FOUGHT HERE HAVE THUS FAR SO NOBLY ADVANCED - IT IS RATHER FOR US TO BE HERE DEDICATED TO THE GREAT TASK REMAINING BEFORE US - THAT FROM THESE HONORED DEAD WE TAKE INCREASED DEVOTION TO THAT CAUSE FOR WHICH THEY GAVE THE LAST FULL MEASURE OF DEVOTION - THAT WE HERE HIGHLY RESOLVE THAT THESE DEAD SHALL NOT HAVE DIED IN VAIN - THAT THIS NATION UNDER GOD SHALL HAVE A NEW BIRTH OF FREEDOM - AND THAT GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE BY THE PEOPLE FOR THE PEOPLE SHALL NOT PERISH FROM THE EARTH -

Lincoln's Gettysburg Address—South Wall of the Memorial.



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